

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 01805 081948Z

64

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EUR-10 L-02 IO-03 AID-10 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /073 W

----- 106787

P R 081940Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7839

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CNO

SECDEF

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01805

LIMDIS

SECDEF FOR JCS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: BEXP, PFOR, EG, UK

SUBJECT: MINE CLEARANCE OF SUEZ CANAL

REF: STATE 025364

SUMMARY: BRITISH ARE INTERESTED IN PROJECT BUT ARE AT PRESENT SORTING OUT COSTS. THEY WANT TO BE SURE THEY WILL NOT BE CROSSING WIRES WITH US IF THEY TOO SHOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO EGYPTIAN REQUEST. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING WHETHER USG COULD VISUALIZE SOME SORT OF US-UK COOPERATION ON PROJECT. END SUMMARY

1. FCO OFFICIALS (WEIR AND CRAIG) WERE SURPRISED TO LEARN (FROM CAIRO AND FROM US) THAT USG IS PREPARED TO SEND SMALL TEAM TO LOOK OVER THIS PROJECT ON THE SPOT. THEY HAD BEEN ACTING ON ASSUMPTION THAT WE PREFERRED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 01805 081948Z

BRITISH TO DO IT, PERHAPS WISHING TO KEEP OUT OF IT

OURSELVES BECAUSE OF SOVIET FACTOR. THEY CABLED BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON EVENING FEBRUARY 7 INSTRUCTING IT TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH DEPARTMENT WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING WHETHER POSSIBLE POSITIVE BRITISH REPLY TO EGYPTIAN QUERY WOULD BE VIEWED IN WASHINGTON AS CROSSING WIRES. (FYI: THEY EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT AT WASHINGTON EMBASSY'S FAILURE TO REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS PROJECT ONCE DEPARTMENT HAD APPROACHED THEM.)

2. CRAIG CONFIDED TO US THAT INSTRUCTIONS ALSO ASK EMBASSY TO MENTION IDEA OF ANGLO-AMERICAN COOPERATION ON PROJECT TO SEE IF IT STRIKES ANY RESPONSIVE CORDS.

3. ACCORDING TO CRAIG, BRITISH HAVE BEEN STUDYING WHAT REPLY TO GIVE EGYPTIANS. (IT IS CLEAR BRITISH VIEW PROJECT POSITIVELY, FROM POLITICAL VIEWPOINT.) JOB LIKELY TO TAKE BETTER PART OF A YEAR, AND REQUIRE SOMETHING LIKE THREE SHIPS. FIRST MOD ESTIMATE WAS MUCH TOO HIGH, BUT NOW MORE REALISTIC ESTIMATE HAS BEEN OBTAINED, UNDER ONE MILLION POUNDS. HOWEVER, TREASURY UNLIKELY TO AUTHORIZE NEW FUNDS. IF TREASURY WILL AGREE, FCO WILL PROPOSE TO COVER COSTS OUT OF BRITISH AID ALLOCATION FOR EGYPT (TOTAL OF FIFTEEN MILLION POUNDS, TEN OF IT JUST ADDED RECENTLY, AND MOST OF IT UNSPENT). OTHERWISE, FUNDING MAY BECOME A STICKING POINT. IF TREASURY GIVES THE GO-AHEAD, BRITISH ARE LIKELY TO MAKE THE OFFER, BASING THEMSELVES ON PRESENT ESTIMATES, SINCE SURVEYING EXACT SITUATION IN CANAL WOULD TAKE TOO LONG.

4. NOTE: AFTER RECOVERING FROM INITIAL SURPRISE WHEN WE TALKED WITH HIM FEBRUARY 7, WEIR READILY AGREED USG MAY HAVE INTEREST IN DOING JOB FOR EGYPTIANS AND SUGGESTED USG MIGHT EVEN DO IT FREE OF COST. WE WERE NON-COMMITTAL. (BRITISH MAY EXPLORE THAT POINT WITH DEPARTMENT).

5. COMMENT: THIS ONE WOULD APPEAR TO REQUIRE TACTFUL HANDLING. IF BRITISH FIND THEY CAN SHOULDER THEIR SHARE OF THE COSTS, PERHAPS SOME US-UK SHARING OF THE JOB

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 01805 081948Z

(DIVIDING IT GEOGRAPHICALLY OR OTHERWISE) WOULD MAKE SENSE. IT MIGHT RESULT IN MORE SPEEDY CLEARANCE OF CANAL, APART FROM POLITICAL ADVANTAGES IN TERMS OF ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP.

ANNENBERG

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DREDGING, BOMBS (ORDNANCE), PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1974
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON01805
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740246/aaaabqyh.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: STATE 025364
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 NOV 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINE CLEARANCE OF SUEZ CANAL
TAGS: BEXP, PFOR, EG, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005